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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 08113 271942Z

10
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 OES-03 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 AGR-05

TRSE-00 /046 W
---------- 089810
R 271655Z JUN 75
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9525
INFO AMCONSUL MADRAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 8113

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BEXP, IN
SUBJ: CLOUD SEEDING PROJECT

FOLLOWING TEL NEW DELHI 8113 SENT MADRAS DTD 19 JUNE
1975 REPEATED YOU:

QUOTE

REF: MADRAS 794

SUMMARY: DARK CLOUDS ON THE HORIZON?? END SUMMARY.

1. USIS HAS TELETYPED TO YOU A PTI STORY ON ALLEGED US DEVELOPMENT OF WEATHER CONTROL TECHNIQUES FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THE STORY WAS WRITTEN BY THE PTI SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT (WHO HELPED TO ORCHESTRATE LAST YEAR'S FUROR OVER THE MOSQUITO GENETICS PROGRAM) AND APPEARED IN TWO DELHI NEWSPAPERS JUNE 19.

2. WE AGREE WITH YOUR VIEW STATED REFTEL THAT CHOCKALINGAM'S EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF CLOUD SEEDING PROJECT IN TAMIL NADU MAY PROVE HELPFUL. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR INFORMING US ABOUT THE REACTION (IF ANY) TO THE PIT STORY AS WELL AS ANY ADVERSE PUBLICITY ABOUT THE CLOUD SEEDING
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PAGE 02 NEW DE 08113 271942Z

PROJECT ITSELF. COULD YOU ALSO ASK CHOCKALINGAM IF HE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

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FORESEES ANY PROBLEMS ARISING AS A RESULT OF THE PTI
STORY.

(FYI: THE REASON FOR POSSIBLY RAISING THIS WITH CHOCKALINGAM
IS TO FIND OUT WHETHER HE HAS "POLITICAL COVER" WITH HIS
MINISTER FOR THE PROJECT. IF HE DOES NOT THIS COULD
CREATE PROBLEMS FOR HIM AND FOR ATMOSPHERICS INCORPORATED.
YOU MIGHT THEN WANT TO CONSIDER CONTACTING AI TO AT LEAST
CAUTION THEM IN GENERAL TERMS OF A POSSIBLE ADVERSE
POLITICAL CLIMATE FOR THEM. IN ANY EVENT, WE WOULD WANT
YOUR COMMENTS ON WHETHER THIS IS LIKELY TO BE A REAL
PROBLEM OR NOT IN VIEW OF WHAT HAPPENED TO THE MOSQUITO
AND MIGRATORY BIRD PROJECTS LAST YEAR.)
SCHNEIDER UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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Disposition Authority: greeneet
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: BEXP, IN
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Type: TE
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